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25X1A2d. The Ecuadoran Minister of Foreign Relations allegedly has information that certain countries were inclined to boycott the Gran Colombian Economic Conference. The Minister stated that both Peru and the United States have a special interest in the failure of the meeting because of their disapproval of certain proposals which were on the agenda.

It was further stated that the Minister was informed that Panama would send only observers to the Conference and that this delegation would attend merely to avoid creating a discordant note. The Ecuadoran Minister expressed the opinion that although it would be desirable to have Panama participate in view of the possibility of obtaining "free ports" at the entrance of the Canal, it should also be recognized that Panama, with a large registration of ships under its flag, constituted a threat to the aspirations of the Gran Colombian Merchant Marine. Panama was accordingly described as being the figurehead of North American interests.

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